

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing video content to a receiving device having an associated identifier associated with a ~~network address~~ processor number for the receiving device, comprising:

selecting, ~~out of a group of segments of video content~~, a set of segments of the video content ~~from a group of segments~~ to be protected, wherein the set does not include all segments of the group;

protecting the segments of the set, but not ~~the~~ other segments of the group which are not in the set, by modifying blocks of video data contained in the protected segments to prevent the protected segments from being properly ~~reproduced~~ displayed by the receiving device on a display device unless the protection is undone with assistance of a correct key that is not generally available and is based at least in part on the associated identifier, including the processor number for the receiving device; and

providing access to the group of segments of video content over a network.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the set involves selecting at least some of the set for visual scrambling and protecting the set includes visually scrambling those segments selected for visual scrambling.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of providing video content, comprising:
selecting, ~~out of a group of segments of video content~~, a set of segments of the video content ~~from a group of segments~~ to be protected, wherein the set does not include all segments of the group;

protecting the segments of the set, but not ~~the~~ other segments of the group which are not in the set, by modifying blocks of video data contained in the protected segments to prevent the protected segments from being properly ~~reproduced~~ displayed on a display device unless the protection is undone with assistance of a correct key that is not generally available;

providing access to the group of segments of video content over a network;

wherein selecting the set involves selecting at least some of the set for visual scrambling and ~~protecting the set~~ modifying blocks of video data includes visually scrambling blocks of video data in those segments selected for visual scrambling; and

wherein visual scrambling involves using a key, including a remote computer number based on hardware characteristics of an intended receiving computer.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the remote computer number is a processor number for the receiving computer.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein selecting the set involves designating those segments to be protected.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the set involves selecting at least some of the set for bit encryption and ~~protecting the set~~ modifying blocks of video data includes bit encrypting those segments selected for bit encryption.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the set involves selecting at least some of the set for visual scrambling and at least some of the set for bit encryption, wherein some of the set may be selected for both visual scrambling and bit encryption, and ~~protecting the set~~ modifying blocks of video data includes visually scrambling those segments selected for visual scrambling and bit encrypting those segments selected for bit encryption.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the remote computer number is stored and matched against a remote computer number from a remote receiving computer during playback.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[9]] 1, wherein the video signals ~~are~~ content is in an MPEG format.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to protection, the segments include video and audio and both the video and audio are protected.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving and processing video content by at least one receiving device having an associated identifier with a ~~network address processor~~ number for the receiving device, comprising:

accessing over a network a group of segments of video content including a set of segments that does not include all segments of the group, and wherein the segments in the set, but not the other segments of the group which are not in the set, have been protected by having blocks of video data in the segments modified to prevent the protected segments from being properly reproduced on a display device without undoing the protection with assistance of a correct key that is not generally available and is based at least in part on the ~~associated identifier processor number~~;

undoing the protection if the correct key is received by restoring blocks of video data in the protected segments to their original form; and

displaying the video content on the display device by playing the group of segments seamlessly with a media player.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein at least some of the protected segments have been protected through visually scrambling.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein at least some of the protected segments have been protected through bit encryption.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the key includes a remote computer number.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein information identifying protected segments is contained in headers.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein information identifying protected segments is contained in at least one watermark.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein information identifying protected segments is contained in data transmitted separately from the segments.

19. (Currently Amended) A video content providing system, comprising:
storage to hold at least video content divided into segments and an identifier associated with a ~~network address~~ processor number for a receiving device;
a user interface; and
circuitry and software cooperating with the user interface to select a set of the segments to be protected from a group of segments, wherein the set does not include all segments of the group, the circuitry and software also configured ~~and~~ to protect the set of selected segments, but not ~~the~~ other segments of the group by modifying blocks of video data within the selected segments, to allow access to the unprotected segments over a network but to prevent the protected segments from being properly ~~reproduced~~ displayed on a display device after access over the network unless the protection is undone by restoring the original blocks of video data with assistance of a correct key that is not generally available, wherein the correct key is based at least in part on the ~~associated identifier~~ processor number.

20. (Currently Amended) The video content providing system of claim 19, wherein protecting the selected segments involves a key including a remote computer number.

21. (Currently Amended) The video content providing system of claim 19, wherein the user interface includes options to select at least some of the set of segments to be

visually ~~scrambling~~ scrambled and the protecting of the segments selected for visual scrambling includes visual scrambling.

22. (Currently Amended) The video content providing system of claim 19, wherein the user interface includes options to select at least some of the set of segments to be bit encrypted and protecting of the segments selected for bit encryption includes bit encryption.

23. (Currently Amended) The video content providing system of claim 19, wherein the user interface includes options to select at least some of the set of segments to be visually scrambled and at least some of the set of segments to be bit encrypted, wherein some of the set of segments may be selected for both visual scrambling and bit encryption, and protecting of the segments selected for visual scrambling includes visually scrambling and protecting of the segments selected for bit encryption includes bit encryption.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The video content providing system of claim 19, wherein the content includes video signals and audio signals.

26. (Currently Amended) An article comprising[[:]] a machine readable media including instructions that when executed cause a video content providing system to:

select a set of segments of video content from a group of segments to be protected wherein the selected set does not include all segments of the group;

protect the segments of the selected set ~~with~~, but not the other segments of the group, by modifying blocks of video data to prevent the protected segments from being properly reproduced on a display device unless the protection is undone with assistance of a correct key that is not generally available, wherein the correct key is based at least in part on ~~an identifier associated with a network address~~ a processor number for a receiving device; and provide access to the group of segments over a network.

27. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 26, wherein ~~protecting the selected segments involves a~~ the correct key including includes a remote computer number.

28. (Currently Amended) An article comprising~~[[:]]~~ a machine readable media including instructions that when executed cause a video content providing system to:

access over a network a group of segments of content including a set of segments that does not include all segments of the group, and wherein segments in the set, but not the other segments of the group which are not in the set, have been protected by modification of blocks of video data in the segments to prevent the protected segments from being properly reproduced on a display device without undoing the protection with assistance of a correct key that is not generally available, wherein the correct key is based at least in part on ~~an identifier associated with a network address~~ a processor number for a receiving device for the content;

undo the protection if the correct key is received by restoring original blocks of video data in the protected segments; and

play the entire group of segments, including both the protected segments and the other segments seamlessly with a media player on the display device, wherein the media player plays the protected segments improperly if the correct key is not received.

29. (Original) The article of claim 28, wherein the key includes a remote computer number.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of providing content to at least one receiving device having an associated identifier associated with a ~~network address~~ processor number for ~~[[a]]~~ the receiving device, comprising:

selecting a set of segments of content from a group of segments to be protected wherein the set does not include all segments of the group;

protecting the segments of the set, but not ~~the~~ other segments which are not in the selected set, through visual scrambling determined based at least in part on the associated

identifier, wherein the visual scrambling comprises modifying coefficients of video blocks within the protected segments; and

providing access to the group of segments over a network.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the receiving device comprises a network information browser configured to display the provided content and to restore the coefficients of the video blocks in the protected segments using the associated identifier.

32. (Cancelled)